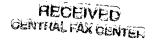
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. DOUBLE PATENTING

A. The Office Action rejected claims 1, 9 and 17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,588,430.

A timely filed terminal disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,588,430 is submitted herewith.

B. The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-10, 14-15 and 17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,807.

A timely filed terminal disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,675,807 is submitted herewith.

C. The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 7, 9-10, 15 and 17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,710.

A timely filed terminal disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,691,710 is submitted herewith.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

A. The Office Action objects to claims 3-5, 8, 11-13 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. With the filing of the terminal disclaimers to overcome the rejection of the base claims, it is believed that claims 3-5, 8, 11-13 and 16 are now in condition for allowance.

With regard to the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-3732.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 29 Stsp5 06

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